FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force carried out "destructive" raids on Tehran, Qazvin, Shiraz, Ilam, and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab during the evening of 28 March, Iraq announced in official statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi planes also hit two maritime targets in the Gulf, according to a military communique broadcast by the radio. An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied an Iranian claim that an Iraqi aircraft was shot down over Tehran. In reports on the effects of the Iraqi attacks on 28 March, IRNA and Tehran radio spoke of 62 casualties in Baneh and 24 in Ilam. Meanwhile, Iranian artillery continued to pound Basra and other Iraqi border cities, according to an Iranian Joint Staff statement cited by the radio.

Commenting on the war in a speech broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's desire for an end to the fighting, with both sides returning to the international borders and guaranteeing peace, stability, and noninterference in each others' affairs. However, he warned that the Iraqis will not be terrified by Iran's surface-to-surface missiles, acquired from certain "disappointed Arab traitors" who will "pay the price for this treason," and he predicted that Iraq will use "the kind of weapon" that will bolster Iraqi morale. In another development, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Moscow on 29 March for talks with his Soviet counterpart Andrey Gromyko, INA noted. 'Aziz was accompanied by Staff General 'Abd Al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs.

Sudan

Demonstrators in Khartoum set two gas stations afire in further protests against price increases, according to sources cited by AFP. Meanwhile, a Khartoum Public Security Department communique transmitted by SUNA accused "vagabonds" and "saboteurs" of exploiting the situation and warned that the security forces will soon "clear" Khartoum of all "suspect elements." The courts have already sentenced 300 "vagabonds" for their part in the disturbances, the communique noted. The authorities called on Muslim Brotherhood leaders to surrender to the police, SUNA reported, and the Armed Forces Committee announced its support for the homeland against "overt and covert plots." The General Federation of Trade Unions also expressed support for the government in a statement reported by Omdurman radio, calling on workers to fulfil their responsibilities and to cooperate "to curb the saboteur groups."

In the south, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) will henceforth administer "liberated" areas in accordance with SPLM law, an SPLM official announced in a statement cited by the clandestine Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi welcomed the unrest in Sudan during a speech broadcast by Tripoli radio, telling his audience that "all our means" are at the disposal of the Sudanese "popular revolution" against President Ja'far Numayri's regime. On the Iran-Iraq war, he held Iraq more responsible than Iran for the attacks on cities, but he warned Iran against developing a "colonialist" desire to occupy and subjugate Iraq, something which would herald the end of the Iranian revolution and would forfeit Libya's support for Iran.

Arab League

Morocco has threatened to withdraw from the Arab League if the latter approves the SDAR's participation in the Arab-African ministerial conference in Libya next month, KUNA reported. The warning was conveyed to the Arab League Council meeting in Tunis by Moroccan delegate Mohamed Tazi, who stressed that his country can "under no conditions whatsoever" accept the SDAR's participation in the meetings of the Arab-African committee. The delegation leaders in Tunis accordingly decided to "postpone" the SDAR's participation in the Arab-African meeting, KUNA added. For the SDAR's part, an Information Ministry statement cited by Algiers radio denounced "unacceptable pressures and interference in the internal affairs of Africa" and stressed the SDAR's determination to participate in all meetings and conferences concerning the member-countries of the OAU.

As for the Arab League Council's position on the Iran-Iraq war, a council statement cited by SPA asserted that "all" Arab countries show solidarity with Iraq and will try to end the hostilities.

Lebanon

The Lebanese Army clashed with the Phalangist Lebanese Forces in eastern Sidon on 28 March, Beirut radio reported, and the Phalangists "expanded the area of tension" by deploying opposite the Palestinian refugee camps at Al-Miyah wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah, further south, the army of southern lebanon (ASL) responded to the assassination of an ASL official by burning houses in the village of Shiqra, according to a security source cited by the radio. Meanwhile, IDF radio announced that the IDF killed three "terrorists" in a clash near the Al-Litani River the night of 28-29 March. The IDF has killed some 70 "terrorists" and arrested hundreds of suspects in recent operations, according to Jerusalem radio.

In Beirut, gunmen kidnapped and later released two Frenchmen, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, while the "Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims" claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of UNRWA employee Alec Collett, whom it described as a spy for Israel and the CIA.

Oman

An Omani official in Kuwait denied local press speculation about the objectives of forthcoming Omani military maneuvers, telling KUNA that Oman "does not feel any threat or concern from either Iran or the PDRY."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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AFP: Gandhi To Head New Intelligence Committee

HK291030 Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 29 Mar 85

[By Govindan Unny]

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is to head a high-powered Joint Committee on National Security (JCNS) which has just been set up to monitor India's intelligence operation, both internal and external, a highly placed official said today.

The start-up date of the committee, which is modelled partly on the U.S. National Security Council, has not been officially announced for reasons of secrecy.

But aside from Mr Gandhi, the official said committee members would include, among others, the secretary to the Cabinet, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, directors of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), director of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis and a prominent politician from the ruling Congress (I) Party. The status of the politician, who is yet to be selected, would be at least that of chief minister of a state, the official, who did not want to be named, said.

Mr Gandhi is also thinking of inducting a high-level scientist into the group in view of the reports of a nuclear build-up by Pakistan, the official added.

The establishment of the committee is in line with Mr Gandhi's assurance to Parliament in January that he would revamp the country's intelligence services. The assurance came after the uncovering of the biggest-ever espionage gang in India which was alleged to have channelled several state secrets to foreign agents. The arrest of over a dozen officials in the spy case, including some from Mr Gandhi's own Secretariat, sent shock waves through the Indian bureaucracy. It led to the resignation of at least two top civil servants, the principal secretary to the prime minister and the secretary to the Department of Defence Production. Several others were transferred to state governments or shifted to other central ministries under Mr Gandhi's orders.

Administrative reforms were also quietly enforced to bring about greater discipline and efficiency and stricter security.

The intelligence services, which were already under a cloud following the assassination of Indira Gandhi by her own Sikh security guards in October, came under further attack for the facile manner in which the alleged spies were peddling official secrets for several years.

The spy scandal reinforced the urgency for an overhaul of the intelligence set-up which Mr Gandhi had already planned to do soon after he took over power following his mother's death, the official said.

During Mrs Gandhi's regime, intelligence agencies covering the internal, external and military fields submitted reports to a Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) which functioned as an apex body. The JIC made the final situation assessment based on the reports and conveyed it to the Cabinet.

The newly formed JCNS is not intended to replace the JIC immediately, the official said, adding that it is expected to function on an experimental basis for some months after which the future of the JIC would be decided.

Bhandari 'Satisfied' With Talks in Sri Lanka

BK281438 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] India-Sri Lanka talks on ethnic issue are to be continued in New Delhi next month during the visit of Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Mr A.C.S. Hameed. He is coming mainly to attend the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau meeting, but will exchange views with the Indian leaders on the ethnic issue in light of the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari's, talks with Sri Lanka authorities in Colombo.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that Mr Bhandari has returned satisfied with his talks in the Sri Lanka capital. He said the talks were very constructive and will contribute to a peaceful settlement of the ethnic problem.

The spokesman said that Mr Bhandari's discussions in Colombo also covered the question of refugees and fishermen.

In reply to a question, he said a summit meeting as such was not discussed, but President Jayewardene is always welcomed in this country.

He said our immediate task is to defuse the situation and Mr Bhandari's visit to Colombo followed by the coming visit of the Sri Lanka foreign minister to India paved the way for productive negotiations.

In reply to another question, the spokesman said the dates for the Indian delegation's visit to Iran are still being worked out.

Minister Leaves for Tehran on Peace Mission

BK291249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of state for external affiars, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, left New Delhi today for Tehran (?for) continuing his peace mission to end the Gulf war. He is accompanied by the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, and other officials.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Khan said he is hopeful that his mission will be successful. Asked whether he is carrying a message from the prime minister, he said the message has already reached Tehran.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who is also the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, has expressed his anxiety that the war should end soon and peace prevail in the region. Mr Khan said he is likely to stay in Tehran for a day to have talks with the Iranian leaders. Mr Bhandari told newsmen that in view of his Tehran visit, he has postponed his trip to Katmandu by a day and now he will go there on Monday.

Economic Talks With Turkey Begin in New Delhi

TA281311 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The second round of talks of the Turkish-Indian joint economic committee has begun in New Delhi. The Turkish and Indian delegations are being headed by Treasury and Foreign Trade Under Secretary Ekrem Pakdemirli and Indian Ministry of Commerce and Cooperation Under Secretary Prem Kumar, respectively. Pakdemirli, speaking at the meeting, said that Turkey desires close economic cooperation with India.

Noting that bilateral trade can be increased and diversified, Pakdemirli added that Turkey is ready for more comprehensive cooperation in the fields of contracting services, industry, agriculture, transporation, and banking. Kumar said that India attaches great importance to developing bilateral trade and economic relations.

He expressed the belief that concrete results will be achieved at the joint economic committee talks. Pakdemirli will hold bilateral contacts with various Indian officials in New Delhi tomorrow. He will return to Turkey on Saturday.

Parliament Told of VOA Transmitter in Sri Lanka

BK281448 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The government today confirmed that the Sri Lanka Government has installed a high powered transmitter under an agreement with the United States. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, told the upper house in parliament in a written answer that it is going to be a relay station of the Voice of America. It is the most powerful station outside the United States.

According to available reports that whole of India and neighboring countries are likely to be covered in its range.

Group Set Up To Monitor Punjab Economy

BK281610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has set up a 6-member high-level group to continuously monitor the economic and social developments in Punjab. The group will be headed by the cabinet secretary, Mr P.K. Kaul.

Other members of the group are the secretaries of finance, power, culture and irrigation and the chairman of the railway board. The constitution of the secretaries group is part of the proposed measures to be taken to activate the state's economy, which has suffered a serious setback during the last 2 years.

Punjab Governor Comments on State Situation

BK290418 Delhi Dometic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, has said that law and order situation in the state is under control. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi last evening, he described the killing of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader in Chandigarh as unfortunate and said it is not reflective of overall situation. Replying to questions, Mr Arjun Singh said every effort is being made to ensure that the economic development of the state, which has suffered due to political uncertainty, comes on its normal path. The prime minister is making sincere efforts toward that, he added.

On the political side, Mr Arjun Singh said efforts are being made so that the democratic set-up is established at the earliest. He, however, regretted that the Akali leaders are not able to respond to the initiatives taken by the center. Mr Arjun Singh said that the cabinet subcommittee on Punjab is likely to visit the state on the 4th and 5th of next month. This will be its first meeting and every opportunity will be provided to the persons who want to meet them.

Former Punjab Ministers Condemn Akali Statements

BK290407 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Three former Punjab ministers have condemned the provocative statements issued by certain Akali leaders during the past few days. In a joint statement in Chandigarh, they urged the Akali leaders to refrain from issuing such statements and return to the negotiating table to resolve the Punjab tangle. They also thanked the prime minister for announcing measures for the rapid economic development of the state.

The signatories to the statement are Dr Kewal Krishan, Mr Santokh Singh Randhawa, and Mr (Harcharan Singh Ajnala).

British MP's at Meeting on Kashmir 'Regrettable'

BK281446 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The Indian Government has taken objection to the participation of some British MP's at a meeting in London early this month where it was decided to form a so-called committee on Kashmir to revive the Kashmir issue. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, informed the upper house today that our high commission in London is in touch with all concerned in this regard. He said the holding of such a meeting and the presence of British MP's in it is regrettable. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, he asserted.

AFGHANISTAN

Further Report on Convoy Explosion; '400' Dead

HK281342 Hong Kong AFP in English 1303 GMT 28 Mar 85

[By Samy Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, March 28 (AFP) — A series of bomb explosions killed more than 400 Soviet and Afghan troops travelling in a Soviet convoy along the strategic Salang highway, Afghan resistance leaders reported today.

Guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Masud said in a message received here today that the highway, the only road linking Afghanistan with the USSR, was closed after the "unprecedented" bomb explosions sparked off by the resistance guerrillas last Saturday.

The resistance group's spokesman M. Khalili said the blast took place at Olang about five kilometers south of the Salang tunnel where a large Soviet convoy was parked in preparation for an operation in the north of Afghanistan.

According to Mr Masud, who is leading a force of several thousand anti-communist guerrillas in the northern Panjsher Valley, mujahidin planted a time bomb in one of the trucks loaded with arms, ammunition and bombs for the anti-guerrilla mission.

The initial blast set off a series of secondary explosions and more than eighty trucks, including some oil tankers, were destroyed in a huge fire which engulfed the convoy, he said. Besides the Army trucks, the Soviet convoy included more than 200 armoured vehicles and tanks.

The message said that more than 400 Soviet and Afghan troops, "the majority of them Russians", were thought to have died in the explosion. At least eight "high ranking" Soviet officials were among the casualties, Mr Masud reportedly added.

The death toll, as reported by the resistance, is the highest since November 1982 when a collision between two Soviet convoys inside the Salang tunnel, about 100 kms (60 miles) north of Kabul, resulted in hundreds of casualties.

There was no immediate confirmation of the incident from other resistance groups or independent sources. But Western diplomats have said that the Soviet-led forces were apparently trying to seal off the guerrillas' route to the north in preparation for their planned spring offensive in the Panjsher Valley.

Mr. Masud, who leads the guerrillas in the valley, has so far withstood eight joint Soviet-Afghan offensives on his positions. The Western diplomats believe that the Soviet campaign to try to seize control of the guerrilla stronghold will begin in mid-April. In their last big offensive during the winter — described as the heaviest so far — the Soviet forces managed to take control of the lower half of the valley. They have since consolidated their positions there but have failed to advance any further.

If confirmed, this latest guerrilla operation with its reported heavy Soviet casualties would be a major morale booster for the resistance and could also delay the planned Soviet-Afghan offensive, according to Afghan sources here.

Clandestine Reports Mujahidin Battle Victories

LD282234 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Pashto 1130 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Bamian: According to reports reaching us from Bamian Province, heavy fighting has taken place between the faithful and heroic mujahidin and the Soviet aggressors and servant soldiers for several days in the Khanjak region of Bamian Province. As a result of these clashes (?a number of) enemy tanks and trucks have been destroyed, dozens of the enemy's trenches have been destroyed, and 160 Soviet aggressors and servant soldiers have been killed.

Farah: Reports from Farah Province broadcast by Tehran radio say that as a result of intense clashes in the Juwayn area of this province between the faithful mujahidin and enemy forces, a MIG-type aircraft has been downed and a large number of Soviet and servant soldiers killed. According to another report from Farah Province, a military convoy of the Soviet aggressors came under heavy attack from the faithful and heroic mujahidin on the Farah-Nimroz highway, as a result of which two tanks have been destroyed and their occupants killed or wounded.

Konduz: Our correspondent reports from Konduz Province that as a result of an (?attack) by an 8-man group of faithful and heroic mujahidin, heavy material losses have been inflicted on a (?Soviet) company and a number of Soviet soldiers killed. The report adds that as a result of Soviet aggressors opening fire [words indistinct], two mujahidin and four innocent women were killed near the scene of the battle. We are from God and to Him we return.

Helmand: [words indistinct].

Mujahidin Successes in 4 Provinces Reported

LD282303 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Dari 1130 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] According to a report from Qandahar Province, one Soviet helicopter was shot down by antiaircraft weapons of the self-sacrificing forces of Islam in the (?Dala) dam area. Also, one tank and one jeep of the Qandahar border forces were destroyed during an attack by the forces of Islam in the Takhteh Pol region and scores of its crew were killed. Another report from Qandahar says that 12 Soviet mercenaries were killed in an attack by the soldiers of Islam in the old city of Qandahar.

Our reporter in Herat city reports that recently a military post of the Soviet servants in Herat city was captured by the self-sacrificing forces of Islam after intense clashes. During these clashes a number of traitors were killed and 16 Muslim officers and soldiers joined the ranks of the faithful mujahidin with their weapons. Another report from Herat says that a Soviet forces' motorized unit in this province was attacked by Muslim forces

as a result of which two tanks of the Soviet occupying force were destroyed and several Soviets were killed.

Our correspondent in Konar Province reports that as a result of recent attacks by the faithful mujahidin, Second Lieutenant Ehsanollah and three servant soldiers of Asmar regiment and four soldiers of Asadabad division were killed and a number were severely wounded.

Reports from Parwan Province say that as a result of an attack by the faithful mujahidin, two tankers carrying fuel were set on fire and one enemy vehicle lost control and overturned as a result of which scores of Soviet mercenary forces were killed and wounded.

BANGLADESH

Bhandari To Visit in April on Border Fences

BK290232 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, will visit Dhaka next month. A PTI report from New Delhi says during his visit the Indian foreign secretary will sort out differences over the issue of erecting barbed wire fences by India along the border with Bangladesh.

PAKISTAN

Junejo Thanks Gandhi for Greetings Message

BK281638 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has thanked his Indian counterpart, Rajiv Gandhi, for his message of felicitations to him on his assumption of the office of the prime minister of Pakistan. In his reply, Junejo said the good-neighborly bilateral relations between Pakistan and India are in the best interests of the people of the two countries. He said he is willing to cooperate with Rajiv Gandhi to strengthen mutual trust and promote bilateral relations.

The Thai prime minister, General Prem Tinsulanon, has also congratulated Mohammad Khan Junejo on his assumption of office of the prime minister.

Briefs

Heroin Seized in Punjab — An automobile was intercepted on the Chenab bridge en route to Karachi from Landikotal and 29 kg of heroin was seized after a search of the automobile. The driver was arrested. [Summary] [*Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 23 Mar 85 p 8 GF*]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Offensive, Cease-Fire

LD291212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] This week's Friday prayers in Tehran were held under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with an unprecedented participation by the people, in Tehran University and in the surrounding streets. Even all the surrounding streets of the university were full of the participants and the crowd extended over Keshavarz Boulevard [formerly Queen Elizabeth Boulevard]. The participants chanted these slogans: "War, war, until victory"; "Death to the United States, death to Saddam", and "We shall fight, we are prepared to die, but we shall not compromise" — and by doing so they stressed their firm resolve to continue the struggle until the final victory against Saddam's infidel forces.

According to a report of the Central News Unit correspondent, in view of the unprecedented mass participation of the people at the Friday prayers, the echo of the people's slogans was very loud and penetrating. This correspondent adds: At the start of the Friday prayers sermons, the glorious road of the people and their emotional slogans echoed in the atmosphere of the university and brought back the memory of the glorious epics of the Islamic revolution to any spectator.

At the start of the sermons, addressing our country's resistant and enthusiastic ummah, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced: Certainly the effect of these emotions and enthusiasm are greater on the enemy than the blows of our fighter planes and missiles.

In the first sermon of today's prayers in Tehran, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis expounded on the rule of capitalism and corruption in the United States and its criminal and polluted democracy.

Analyzing the present war situation and Saddam's atrocities, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council said: The motive of global arrogance and Saddam's supporters is to create tension and a crisis situation in the region so as to put pressure on the Islamic Republic to accept an imposed peace.

While reviewing the Badr operations' huge gains, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the propaganda of the imperialist mass media and said: Right now, the entire area of the Hawr al-Azim, 50-60 km long and 30 km wide, is under our warriors control.

The imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council referred to the renewal of attacks on civilian areas by the Iraqi regime as a move for creating a psychological war against the Hezbollahi ummah [members of God's party] and said: As the reaction of our people shows at the time of bombings and Friday prayers, this move had the opposite effect and it strengthened the morale and determination of our people.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: Our missile attack on Baghdad has inflicted the same degree of loss to all Iraqi bombings of our country's cities and has had a psychological impact on the people of Iraq.

The imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council announced: In view of the developments in the war issue so far, the necessary preparations are at hand for our main offensive against Iraq.

About the success of the forces of Islam, he emphasized: Right now, by evaluating the existing situation, even Saddam's supporters have become flexible and and are asking us whether we would be satisfied with Saddam's departure, or would want further concessions.

While emphasizing that the moment we feel that the Iraqi regime has given up attacking our cities we would also stop attacking Iraqi cities, including Baghdad, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We shall not remain indifferent toward Iraqi attacks on civilian areas and hitting of [nonmilitary] planes and ships, and we shall answer these atrocities by attacking Baghdad with missiles, shelling Basra, and by other, similar reactions.

The imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council stressed: If the Iraqi regime were to continue its atrocities, our future and more intense missile attacks on Baghdad would create fresher problems for the Iraqi regime and would clarify more truth for the Iraqi people.

At the conclusion of his sermons, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council announced: We are prepared to agree to a cease-fire on attacks against ships, civilian passenger aircraft and residential areas right now, but we do not agree to a cease-fire on battlefronts and we shall not agree to a compromise in this respect.

Rafiqdust Addresses Cabinet on Badr Operation

LD281521 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] During its first session of the new year this morning, the Cabinet discussed and reviewed the draft bill on establishment of a ministry of medical affairs and approved its general points.

The Cabinet also approved the executive regulations for setting up doctors surgeries. The Cabinet also saw a demonstration of electronic systems and color and monotelevision sets manufactured by the Janbazan [those prepared to sacrifice their lives for the revolution] under the supervision of the Martyr's Foundation of the Islamic Revolution.

It was agreed to provide the necessary support to encourage these dear ones to expand their activities.

During the session, Minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Rafiqdust presented a report on the outcome of the Badr operations. He said: During the Badr operations, which resulted in the annihilation of more than 12,000 Ba'thist troops, the 65th and 66th Brigade of the Special Commando Forces, the so-called most experienced and hand-picked forces of Saddam, were totally annihilated and destroyed.

Saddam Husayn Travels to Safe Religious City

LD281817 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — Saddam Husayn has made an unplanned trip to Samarra, 120 kms north of Baghdad, following Iranian missile attacks against the Iraqi capital. Radio Baghdad said in its late night broadcast Wednesday that Saddam had gone to Samarra for a "pilgrimage" and to "pray" for the Iraqi soldiers killed in recent battles.

Samarra is one of the four Iraqi religious cities which Iran declared safe. The other cities are Al-Kazimiyah, Karbala and Al-Najaf. The radio did not say when Saddam left the capital or when he would be back.

In the past two weeks, Iran has fired six missiles at Iraq, not far from Saddam's presidential compound, in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities.

Reports on War Situation; Plane Downed in Tehran

Communique Issued

LD281801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the aerial operations of the criminals ruling Baghdad and the bombardment of civilian areas of our country's cities, the combatants of Islam are continuing at the same intensity heavy artillery fire on the military and economic installations of the city of Basra and cities opposite the country's western battlefronts.

According to Ground Forces reports, during the past day the exchange of fire by and large continued at the same intensity in the operational sectors of Badr, Mehran, Nowsud and Sardasht, with the combatants of Islam enjoying fire superiority, and in the operation sector of Piranshahr and Hajj 'Umran the activities of enemy engineering units were brought under fire and their activities limited or halted.

In the regions of Chuman-Mostafa and the area facing Naft-e Shah, the supply activities of the Iraqi forces were observed and brought under the fire of our forces. In the Arvand River region, the gendarmerie fighters poured retaliatory fire on the positions and fortifications of the enemy, halting the engineering activities and fire of the Saddamist forces, and by setting ablaze and destroying three weapons emplacements, one ammunition trench, and one observation post, killed or injured at least 20 Iraqi troops.

Casualties Reported in Baneh, Ilam

LD282057 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — The intruding Iraqi warplanes Thursday violated air space of Piranshahr in West Azarbayjan Province, the East Azarbayjan capital of Tabriz, Esfahan in Esfahan Province, Baneh in Kordestan Province, and Ilam and its Salehabad District in Ilam Province.

The Iranian anti-aircraft units chased away the Iraqi planes from Piranshahr and Esfahan. However, a number of people are reported to have been martyred or wounded as a result of air attacks on Baneh, Ilam and Salehabad District.

3 Die in Second Ilam Bombing

LD282107 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — Iraqi aircraft bombed the city of Ilam for the second time Thursday. The bombing at 6:10 pm (14:40 GMT), martyred three people and damaged a number of homes.

Enemy planes also violated the airspace of Urumiyeh at 2:30 pm (11:00 GMT) today. The planes were forced to retreat before carrying out any operations under intense anti-aircraft fire.

20 Killed in Kordestan

LD282117 Tehran IRNA in English 1912 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — Today's Iraqi air raids against Baneh and Marivan in Kordestan Province left 20 people martyred and 42 wounded in Baneh, and wounded four people in Marivan. A number of people were wounded and windows of some buildings were broken in the aerial attack on Tabriz by Iraqi aircraft, today.

Plane Downed Over Tehran

LD281943 Tehran IRNA in English 1928 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — An Iraqi plane was shot down over Tehran Thursday night, the Iranian television reported. The television interrupted its scheduled news broadcast, saying an enemy plane had been downed over the capital during an air raid by Iraqi aircraft tonight.

A blackout was imposed on Tehran just before anti-aircraft guns began firing at 8:15 pm (17:45 GMT). There has been no report on attacks on any area of Tehran.

Iraqi Planes Over Tehran, Shiraz

GF290530 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] At 2014 last night three aircraft of the Iraqi regime violated Iranian airspace but were forced to flee due to the intensive fire of the Islamic combatants' air defense command and only managed to break the sound barrier.

According to reports received, one of the intruding aircraft was hit by the fire of the fastflying fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force and the air defense outside Tehran while attempting to flee and was downed in the northern heights.

According to the Central News Unit, at 2015 last night a residential area in Shiraz was the target of an aerial violation which caused some losses including three injured.

Raid on Bakhtaran, Arak Repelled

LD291254 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 29 IRNA — Intruding Iraqi planes violated the airspace of Bakhtaran (Bakhtaran Pr.) and Arak (Central Pr.) at 20:12 (16:42 GMT) and 19:45 (16:15 GMT) respectively, Thursday.

Intense anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian forces did not allow enemy planes to carry out any operations.

India's Request for Talks on Bombing Halt Accepted

LD291132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] The spokesman of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced: Following the request made by Rajiv Gandhi, Indian prime minister and the head of the Nonaligned Movement, in a letter to President Khamene'i about stopping the attacks on residential areas, the Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed that a delegation led by Khurshid Alam Khan, the minister of state for external affairs, should come to Tehran to follow up this point. The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added: Violations of the 12 June agreement and other human and international principles by the Iraqi regime have initiated requests by international bodies and other sources for implementing these principles and protocols. But the Iraqi regime, because of its aggressive nature, has not accepted them. It is necessary that efforts made by other countries and international bodies be directed toward making that regime accept their proposals which are based on international law and regulations.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also added: The crimes committed by the Iraqi regime in attacking residential areas, renewed use of chemical weapons, attacking oil tankers, and threatening nonmilitary aviation have more than ever proved the belief of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the need for decisive and all-around confrontation in all political and military dimensions to uproot the main cause of tension and instability in the region. At present, efforts made in this respect to fulfill the just conditions made by the Islamic republic of Iran are acceptable and can result in the return of permanent peace and calm in the region.

Commentary Warns of Danger of War Spreading

GF281750 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Mar 85

[From the "Political Followups" program]

[Excerpt] While adopting a policy of nonintervention in others' internal affairs, the Islamic Republic regards the region's countries as neighbors toward whom it observes all the rights that are provided for by Islamic law, particularly as it has the strongest ties with the peoples of these countries in regard to Islam, joint histories, and mutual interests. The Islamic revolution, however, retains the right to defend itself when it perceives that its neighbors seriously contribute to the aggression on its sanctities by their unlimited support to the Ba'thist regime, whose continued existence — we strongly affirm — is a continuation of threat and blackmail to the countries of the region.

Hence, it is in the interest of the peoples of the whole region to remove the cancerous Ba'thist organ so that everyone can live in tranquility, stability, and security.

Consequently, by its insistence on continuing the defensive war against the criminal regime in Baghdad, the Islamic Republic defends the future of the whole region. It is willing to overlook all the negative practices that the regimes have adopted toward the Islamic Republic by their support for Saddam's regime and by supplying it with various aid.

Secondly, the Islamic Republic has no plans to confront the whole world if the world desires to coexist with it in peace. For this reason, the others' fear of the victory of the Islamic revolution has actually been merely an expression of their fear of the victory of virtuous human values. If it is destined for the others to avoid a confrontation with the Islamic Republic and abandon their hostility to Islam, then we will never have a quarrel with them.

Thirdly, those who seek to bring about a so-called peace between Iraq and Iran seek in vain to bring together contradictions that do not meet even on the level of [indistinct word] and example, let alone on the level of actual fact. They have tried all methods and knocked on all doors. None of these doors were open and they found no way. They never will. Yes, there is one way that must be understood by the world's politicians if they really want their attempts to succeed. This way is summed up by a total acceptance of the just conditions that have been presented by the blessed Islamic revolution, foremost among which is the overthrow of Saddam's regime and its group which causes seditions and wars.

The world has come to realize that it is confronting a great power called the Islamic Republic. Neither East nor West can disregard this fact. Nor can they erase this new fact even if they support one another.

Therefore, to prevent the flames of war from spreading to engulf the whole region — an action which Saddam is actually doing — those who are interested in the security and peace of this sensitive region must revise all their calculations and enter the houses of peace through their doors, secure in their faith the need to overthrow the Ba'thist idol. Otherwise, the interests of the region's countries and the world will be in constant danger. The possibility that others will burn is very strong as long as Saddam, in his aggressive practices, is not governed by any law, convention, or sense. Those who have warned are excused. God be our witness that we have conveyed the message.

Clandestine on Iran-PRC Arms Deal, Cooperation

GF281836 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Recently the Islamic Republic of Iran signed an agreement with the PRC Government for the purchase of arms and war materiel worth $1.6 billion so that Islam may be exported to the

Islamic countries with the help of arms acquired from the infidels.

In his antagonism toward God, the Prophet, and those clergymen who show coldness in relations toward the Islamic Republic, the reverend imam, in order to raise the standard of Islam, has decided to make alliances with infidels. Now that the spring of the invisible aid has dried up and the hidden imam has failed to make an appearance at the battlefronts, and according to 'Asheq Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, the curses of Saint Zainab have prevented an Islamic revolution from erupting in Iraq, and the army of genies has not come to help the Islamic army, and dogs and cats [words indistinct] fail to serve the Islamic Republic, it is time the reverend imam finds new allies — although this ally may happen to be a staunch infidel.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanajni once (?spoke) in the Majlis of the Islamic Republic about an agreement for cooperation with the (?PRC) and said that our job is to spread Islam. Unless we have cultural relations with the infidels, we cannot present Islam to them.

With this kind of logic, the Hojjat ol-Eslam convinced the Majlis deputies that a cultural agreement was like (?trapping) a duck, and the Islamic jurists of the Islamic Republic agree that through this trick they may find a way for exporting Islam to the 1 billion Chinese infidels. No doubt the jurists of the Islamic Guidance Committee appreciate such argument and are ready to approve of an agreement for cultural cooperation with a country that openly and formally denies the existence of God. It is not for us to sit and wait, watching for the outcome of cultural and military cooperation between the Islamic Republic and the PRC.

The Chinese, like the Tudeh Party leaders, have been so magically struck by Islam that they have immediately decided to unsheath their swords and follow the imam's horse as his new allies in service of spreading Islam, especially in the Islamic countries; thus, they too have entered the arena.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his Friday sermon [date of sermon not given] informed the male and female believers that the Islamic Republic and Communist China are capable of ridding the region of the imperialist cancer.

Cooperation — cultural, political, economic, and technical — with Communist China is no sin, but hypocrisy, telling lies, and backbiting are sins, and indeed major ones at that.

If the rightist and leftist adventurists, let alone all those white and black turbans and [words indistinct] stop bothering the clerics and officials and stop using the verses and traditions and sayings [of the Prophet] as justifications for crimes and cruelty, they can without such gimmicks have relations with any country and reach agreements for arms, or the purchase of war materiel.

However, when the agreements are used as a way of cheating, the Muslims have the right to hold them by the collar and to say: O you false Muslims, where does Islam say that you may make alliances with infidels to kill Muslims?

Iraqi Refugee Volunteers Leave for War Front

GF290532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit in Qom, in response to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] based on greater participation of Iraqi brethren at the fronts of the war of truth versus falsehood, last evening the fourth group of SAIRI mobilization volunteers assigned to the fronts, attended special services and ceremonies to pay homage to some of their fellow combatants who had attained the lofty status of martyrdom in the Badr operations and then left for the battlefields of Islam versus the infidels of the world amid a sendoff by their family members and while shouting slogans of "War, war until treachery is ended!", "Death to Saddam" and "Death to America," and "Death to Israel".